Approved For Release 2000/08/26 : CIA-RDP75-0

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.
JOURNAL
m. 52,447
S. 74,010
Front Page / Edit Page / Other Page
Date: AUG 25 1964

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ANOTHER KOREA?

The Central Intelligence Agency has issued a document concerning the floundering effort in South Viet Nam that appears to be a blueprint for another Korea.

William Matthias, of CIA's Board of National Estimates, in the document had this appraisal of the U.S.-backed conflict against Communist guerrillas: "There remains serious doubt that victory can be won... If large-scale U.S. support continues and if further political deterioration within South Viet Nam is prevented, at least a prolonged stalemate can be attained. There is also a chance that political evolution within the country . . . could lead to some kind of negotiated settlement based upon neutralization . . ."

High administration officials now claim the document does not represent U.S. policy. They assert the paper never has been presented to, or considered by, President Johnson's National Security Council, nor the top level U.S. Intelligence Estimate Board.

But it is significant that the document, written early this year, has been circulated among government agencies with a notation it had "general approval" of the CIA board. Officials sources disclosed existence of the document after learning it had been offered as a major outline of American policy.

The same sources deny this and declare the document's ideas were "only one man's opinion."

But there are some disturbing questions. Why was the document allowed to circulate for so long among other agencies, with the "approval" notation, if it represented "only one man's opinion?" Also disturbing is its authorship by a high official of an agency which has been repeatedly under fire for attempting to shape foreign policy, a function of the chief executive and his State Department.

The document unfortunately could serve to give some credence to the charges that the administration has embarked on a "no-win" policy in South Viet Nam despite repeated denials.

Approved For Release 2000/08/26 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300490051-6